

## **IMA Hero Receives Humanitarian Award**

Hohenfels, January 6, 2006

An IMA-EURO worker has been presented the Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service for his rescue of an elderly German woman from an icy river in eastern Bavaria.

Benedict Felton, an MWR Children and Youth Services program assistant at USAG Hohenfels, was driving near Emhof when he saw a car swerve off the road, hit a tree, and plunge into the Vils River.

Disregarding his own safety, the 24-year-old Felton dove into the swiftly flowing current and swam to the sinking vehicle. He pulled the elderly woman, who could not swim, to shore. Following Felton's example, two other Good Samaritans pulled the woman's husband to safety.

Felton was presented the Humanitarian Award by Col. Thomas Vandal, operations group commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Military Readiness Center, at a New Year's Reception Jan. 6 at USAG Hohenfels. The couple who were rescued attended the presentation.

Following the ceremony, Felton was interviewed by Stars and Stripes, AFN and German media.

Felton was born in Hanau and was graduated from Hohenfels American High School. He served two years with the U.S. Army. Felton works at the Hohenfels Teen Center.